

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 4, 28-30, 32 and 34-36, 39 and 41 are pending with Claims 4 and 32 being independent. Claims 4, 28-30, and 32 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, for example in Figures 8, 9, 13, and 15, and the accompanying description, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

Claims 4, 28-30, 32, 34-36, 39 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 (Fritz et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,119,835 (Gennetten et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 4 and 32 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Amended Claim 4 relates to a digital camera for being directly connected to a printer, and for directly transmitting an image stored in a memory that stores images to the printer. The camera comprises a display unit, a selection unit, a print instruction transmitting unit, an image transmitting unit, a reception unit, and a control unit. The

selection unit is configured to select an image to be printed from among images displayed by the display unit, after communication between the digital camera and the printer is established. The print instruction transmitting unit is configured to transmit, to the printer, a print instruction indicating that the image selected by the selection unit is to be printed. The image transmitting unit is configured to transmit, in response to receiving from the printer a request for transmitting the image to be printed, the requested image to the printer. The reception unit is configured to receive from the printer a message indicating the status of the printer. The control unit is configured to, in response to receipt by the reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, keep the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the control unit is also configured to, in response to receipt by the reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, display on the display unit a notice indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation before completion of a print process by the printer of the image to be printed, until the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, and in response to receipt by the reception unit of the print completion message during the communication when the digital camera is connected to the printer, stop the notice display by the display unit, display an image, and enable the selection of another image to be printed by the selection unit.

By this arrangement, a notice (indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation) can be displayed on a digital camera that is different from the message received by the digital camera that triggers the notice (a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer).

In contrast, the citations to Suzuki et al., Fritz et al., and Gennetten et al. are not understood to relate to a digital camera that displays a notice (indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation) that is different from the message received by the digital camera that triggers the notice (the notice-triggering message being a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer).

Therefore, the citations to Suzuki et al., Fritz et al., and Gennetten et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest a control unit configured to, in response to receipt by the reception unit of a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, display on the display unit a notice indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation before completion of a print process by the printer of the image to be printed, until the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, and in response to receipt by the reception unit of the print completion message during the communication when the digital camera is connected to the printer, stop the notice display by the display

unit, display an image, and enable the selection of another image to be printed by the selection unit, as recited by amended Claim 4.

The Office Action cites column 5, lines 57-63 of the Fritz et al. patent as disclosing a printer giving a note to a user of a processing unit by presenting a note on a screen of a PC, which corresponds to the claimed digital camera. However, this portion of the Fritz et al. patent is understood to merely disclose the displaying of a note whose content is based on an interpretation of the message that the printing process is broken. There is no indication in this passage that the note that is displayed is any different from the message that the printing process is broken:

A printing process might be broken, e.g. because the printer runs out of paper or the ACL connection is broken, etc. This is reported by the printer server in a message received by the printer client. The entity 501 comprises a device 527 arranged for interpret the message and give a note to the user of the processing unit, e.g. by presenting the note on the screen of the PC. (col. 5, lines 57-63 of Fritz et al.)

The Office Action also cites column 6, lines 17-22 of the Fritz et al. patent as showing that a message requesting disconnection of a session can be sent to a user. However, this portion of the Fritz et al. patent is understood to merely disclose that an entity 501 of a printer client or PC, comprises a sending device 523 for sending a message to the printer server in the printer requesting disconnection of a session. It is not understood to relate to the receipt and display by a digital camera or a PC of a notice indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation:

The entity 501 further comprises a closing device 522 arranged for closing the connection between the processing unit and the printer, the closing device comprising a sending device 523 arranged for sending a message to the printer server, the message comprising a request to disconnect a session identified by a session identity. (col. 6, lines 17-22 of Fritz et al.)

Since the citations to Suzuki et al., Fritz et al., and Gennetten et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest the control unit recited by amended Claim 4, the Office has not yet satisfied its burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 4 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claim 32 has been amended in a similar manner, it is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 32 also be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gary M. Jacobs/

Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ/klm

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